

Testimony of Tiffany DeJesus in support of RB 112

My name is Tiffany DeJesus and I reside in Meriden, CT. I am here in support of passage of Raised Bill 1129. As a young six year old girl I was sexually molested by my biological father on a regular basis. I held this secret in for years due to his ongoing threats that if I told anyone he would kill my mother and sister. Little did I know he had also been molesting my sister for years. In 1994 my older sister spoke out and the abuse stopped. For her case he was arrested and charged with unlawful restraint in the first degree. He entered a plea under the *Alford* doctrine on November 30, 1994, and only received a four-year suspended sentence and three years' probation.

Several years later in November 1999 I finally spoke out. I couldn't take constantly knowing he was a free man. My anxiety attacks and nightmares got progressively worse as I got older knowing he could be hurting someone else.

On January 29, 2001 a 9 person jury gave me justice by serving a guilty verdict to my biological father. Two months later he was sentenced to 23 years in prison. The relief was amazing. Or so I thought. Over the past 14 years I have fought through several parole hearings that he was eligible for due to the early release program. At every parole hearing he states he never committed any crime. Thankfully to the parole board he was never released even though he technically qualified based on the requirements of the Early Release Program.

He has been earning days off of his sentence through two state laws. One being the Good Time Credit law which was repealed in October 1994. However because he molested me prior to that date he still earns up to 15 days per month for "good behavior". The current law is the Early Release program, of which he earns up to 5 additional days a month. Essentially it is early release on steroids. He has earned approximately 6 years off of his sentence so far for "rehabilitative programs", such as parenting classes. Yet he has never once admitted any fault or wrong doing. As recent as February 6, 2015 at his last parole hearing there was no remorse, admittance or apology. How can he possibly earn all of these days with never admitting fault? Is the first step of recovery not to admit you have a problem?

My sister and I do not get to suffer for only a percentage of our lives with what this monster has done to us. We do not get a good behavior pass simply because we completed a class. We do not get to escape the reality or the anxiety attacks that can come at any moment no matter how successful and well behaved we may be. What he has done is a full time life sentence for us. My life sentence began at just 6 years old.

I am no longer a victim, I am a survivor. However I am still fighting because I know somewhere there is another little girl scared and feeling alone as they are is being molested. Please change this law to include first degree sexual assault and any sexual assault of a child. Show the victims who have spoken out there is hope and show the ones who are still holding it in that there is a true way out and true justice for the victim.